**National Statistics Harmonisation Group**

**Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday 3 July 2018 from 1100 to 1330 hrs**

**Meeting Room 3, at ONS, 1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ**

**Titchfield Room 1105**

**Newport 1.359**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Timing** | **Agenda Item** | **Paper No** | **Presenter** |
| 1 | 1100 – 1110 | Welcome and Introductions |  | Chair |
| 2 | 1110 – 1120 | Review of Previous Minutes and Actions | NSHG (18:1) 04 | Chair |
| 3 | 1120 – 1150 | a) GSS SPSC Meeting Update | Verbal Update | Chair |
| b) NSHG & Business Harmonisation Update | Verbal Update | Becki Aquilina |
| c) Communications Plan | NSHG (18:2) 03 | Becki Aquilina |
| ~~4~~ | 1150 – 1200 | Census Update | NSHG (18:2) 04 | Helena Rosiecka |
| 5 | 1200 - 1215 | Health Update | NSHG (18:2) 05 | Alison Brookman |
| 6 | 1215 – 1225 | Homelessness Update | NSHG (18:2) 06 | Daisie Hutchinson |
| 7 | 1225 – 1235 | Loneliness Update | NSHG (18:2) 07 | Ian Sidney |
| 8 | 1235 – 1320 | **NSHG Topic Group Updates** | NSHG (18:2) 08 | **Topic Group Leads** |
| Benefits and Tax Credits |  | Claire Cameron |
| Consumer Durables | Nothing to report | Sharon Hook |
| Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour |  | Fiona Aitchison |
| Demographic Information |  | Paula Guy |
| Economic Activity Status |  | Debbie Curtis |
| Education |  | Julian Austin / Tony Clarke |
| EILR |  | Amanda Sharfman |
| Gender Identity |  | Michelle Monkman |
| Health, Disability and Carers |  | Jane Winter |
| Homelessness |  | Ellen Reaich |
| Housing and Tenure |  | Chauncey Glass |
| Income |  | Matthew Minifie |
| Internet Access |  | Grant Blank |
| Loneliness |  | Ian Sidney |
| Migration, Country of Birth & Citizenship |  | Hannah McConnell |
| Personal Well-being |  | Silvia Manclossi |
| Social Capital |  | Dani Evans |
| 9 | 1320 – 1325 | AOB |  | Chair |
| 10 | 1325 – 1330 | Next Meeting | Wednesday 7 November 2018,  1100 - 1330 hrs,  ONS, Drummond Gate Office, London | Chair |



**Minutes of the National Statistics Harmonisation Group (NSHG) Meeting**

**12th March 2018**

**1100 to 1330 hrs**

**ONS, 1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Attendees:** |  | **Apologies:** |  |
| Steve Ellerd-Elliott – **Chair** | MoJ | Amanda Sharfman | ONS |
| Alison Brookman | ONS via video | Catherine Davies | ONS |
| Anthony Clarke | ONS via audio | Debbie Curtis | ONS |
| Charlie Wroth-Smith | ONS | Dani Evans | ONS |
| Clare Cameron | DWP via audio | Helena Rosiecka | ONS |
| Daisie Hutchinson | ONS | Hugh Kerr | NISA |
| Darren Stillwell | DfT | Kim Bradford | DfID |
| Dawn Camus | BEIS | Jonathan Page-Swan | ONS |
| Emily Knipe | ONS via video |  |  |
| Grant Blank | University of Oxford |  |  |
| Hannah McConnell | ONS via video |  |  |
| Helen Fox | ONS via audio |  |  |
| Jamie Robertson | SG via audio |  |  |
| Jill Morton | NRS via audio |  |  |
| Joe Ellison | ONS via video |  |  |
| Karen Hurrell | EHRC via audio |  |  |
| Lisa Walters | Welsh Gov via audio |  |  |
| Matthew Minifie | ONS via video |  |  |
| Penny Babb | OSR |  |  |
| Pete Betts | ONS |  |  |
| Silvia Manclossi | ONS via video |  |  |
| Steve Smallwood | ONS via video |  |  |
| Steve Webster | NHS Digital |  |  |
| Becki Aquilina – secretariat | ONS |  |  |

1. **Welcome and Introduction – Steve Ellerd-Elliott**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and thanked those who have left the NSHG for their contribution.

**2.0 Minutes and Actions from the previous meeting, NSHG (17:3) 18 – Steve Ellerd-Elliott**

There were no comments from the previous minutes, all the actions were completed.

**3.0 Update on Harmonisation Work**

1. **Verbal Update, NSH SG / GSS SPSC Meeting Report – Steve Ellerd-Elliott**

The main points were:

* NSH SG
  + Julie Stanborough is leading Best Practice and Impact (BPI) Division which includes the Harmonisation Team, Good Practice Team (GPT), the Quality Centre (QC) and Methodology Advisory Service (MAS)
  + the communication plan was agreed including what projects the Harmonisation Team should be involved in
  + Penny Babb presented the new Code of Practice prior to the launch and how Harmonisation fits within the new narrative around the Code
  + Richard Laux talked about the Race Disparity Audit (RDA) and how the NSH SG and RDA may work together in the future to ensure greater ethnicity harmonisation across the GSS
  + Horizon scanning identified further work needed in the following areas;
    - Just about Managing (JAM)
    - Government Digital Service (GDS)
    - Influencing European Statistical Community (Brexit/Eurostat)
  + the next meeting will take place on 16th April 2018
  + it was suggested that the NSH SG meeting should be circulated to NSHG members

**Action 1: Becki to circulate the NSH SG meeting minutes to NSHG members**

* GSS SPSC
  + the last meeting was held on18th January 2018
  + an item on driving forward Harmonisation was postponed until the next SPSC meeting on 10th April 2018
  + Code of Practice statistics refresh was discussed and the work required to amend documents on the Policy Store to reflect the language in the new Code

1. **NSHG Update – Charlie Wroth-Smith**

**Social Harmonisation**

* + new harmonisation Topic Leads;
    - Claire Cameron for Benefits and Tax Credits
    - Ian Sidney temporary topic lead for Consumer Durables
    - Debbie Curtis for Economic Activity
    - Amanda Sharfman for Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion
    - Silvia Manclossi for Personal Well-being
    - Dani Evans for Social Capital

All new Topic Leads will be contacted by a member of the Harmonisation Team to provide a Harmonisation Induction in the next couple of weeks

**ACTION 2 – Harmonisation Team to organise Harmonisation Inductions for all new Topic Leads within the next two weeks**

* + the Harmonisation Team are continuing to develop a new harmonised definition for Homelessness; the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) published a systematic review of housing statistics on how to improve the coherence and comparability of housing statistics late last year and we are heavily involved in assisting the OSR and Debra Prestwood (HoP leading the development). The Harmonisation Team will be offering consultancy, advice and research to producers of housing statistics to make their date more comparable.
  + the Harmonisation Team are continuing to develop Internet Access questions and are in the process of securing resource to test the questions
  + Benefits and Tax Credits harmonised principles have been updated and disseminated across the GSS
  + new definitions for Migration, Country of Birth and Citizenship have been developed, approved and disseminated across the GSS
  + continued liaison with a number of programmes and initiatives across the GSS (2021 Census, ONS Data Collection Transformation Programme, GDS, GSS Data Discovery Project; Race Disparity Audit (RDA); Admin Data Census Programme
  + due to the growing importance of harmonisation and increased recognition, Julie Stanborough is increasing resource to the Harmonisation Team

**Business Harmonisation**

* to date, have developed a range of business definitions and continue to meet with a range of stakeholders to increase the profile
* involved in the GSS Data Discovery project and a main area this project is working on is Trade Statistics and the Harmonisation Team have been involved in these workshops
* been involved with the DCTP for business surveys
* working with a range of departments (HMRC/DWP/ONS/BEIS) to understand if a harmonised definition is required for the sharing economy and the gig economy
* a ‘turnover workshop is planned for the end of March to bring together turnover experts to understand how turnover is collected across the GSS and to address any comparability issues

1. **Best practice and Impact (BPI) Update – Daisie Hutchinson**

Daisie presented the BPI slides which Julie Stanborough will be presenting to HoPs on 13th March 2018. There are 7 strands;

* Provide strategic direction
* Build capability
* Consultancy
* Share best practice
* Develop tools, guidance and standards
* One GSS voice
* Compliance

1. **NSHG (18:1) 01, Communications Plan – Becki Aquilina**

Becki presented the Communication Plan which was approved by the NSH SG at the 17th January 2018 meeting.

* members were reminded the two main objectives of the Communication Plan are to;

1. Make Harmonisation part of the GSS voice
2. Increase contact to and from users

* members were asked to email Becki with communication tactics for 2018, the following suggestions were raised:
  + contact Steve Dempsey to organise a business harmonisation presentation/workshop at BEIS

**ACTION 3 – Members to consider suggestions for communication ideas and platforms and inform the Harmonisation Team**

**ACTION 4 – Business Harmonisation to contact Steve Dempsey to organise a presentation/workshop at BEIS**

**4.0 Census Topic Update**

**England and Wales - Becki Aquilina on behalf of Helena Rosiecka**

The following papers have been published;

* [The census topic research report](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/2021censustopicresearchdecember2017)
* [The 2017 test report](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/2017censustest/2017censustestreport) - field test during March and May – Census test day was 9th April 2017
* [A summary of the Sikh meeting](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/ethnicgroupnationalidentityreligionandlanguage/summaryofthemeetingwiththesikhcommunity23october2017) - meeting with the Sikh community on 23rd October 2017
* [and the response to the number of rooms/bedrooms consultation](https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/census/estimating-rooms-and-bedrooms-consultation/)
* a blog from Iain Bell was published; Population and Public Policy forum held during December 2017
* the White Paper is due to be finalised by in 2018

**Scotland – Jill Morton**

* quantative testing is nearing completion and currently working on a draft version of the findings; will provide the results of the quantative testing when available
* Scotland have developed a trans status question
* working with MoD and ONS for assurances regarding the ex-service question
* still working on the ethnic group question; liaising with African community and looking at Jewish/Sikh
* NRS have been running a series of events on the output strategy for Census. This has provided an opportunity to explain how questions work and getting the data required in absence of a tick boxes
* publication strategy for NRS – looking at producing a range of topic reports in place of research based reports
* the three areas of UK are working closely together via topic groups
* things are moving very quickly and there is still a lot to do

**Northern Ireland – Becki Aquilina on behalf of Hugh Kerr**

* there were no areas of major concern although there is still a lot of work to be done on Sex/Gender and Armed Forces Community

**5.0 Update on Sexual ID/Sexual Orientation – Emily Knipe**

* increasingly the term ‘Sexual Orientation’ is being used across the GSS and wider. This has prompted a review of the terminology used within the current harmonised principle of ‘Sexual Identity’
* a **Sexual Identity/Orientation** stakeholder meeting was held during February to review what terminology is being used across the GSS and key organisations (attendance included; ONS, LGBT Foundation, Stonewall, GEO, EHRC, NHS, NRS, Scottish government to name a few)
* of the stakeholders represented at the meeting, all were in favour of the terminology ‘sexual orientation’ rather than ‘sexual identity’. The main reasons given were that sexual orientation matches the terminology used in the Equality Act, 2010 and is the terminology most recognised by the public. None of the attendees supported the terminology of ‘sexual identity’.
* it was agreed to allow stakeholder’s two weeks to give any further comment/feedback after consulting within individual departments/organisations. No further feedback was received. We also asked for feedback from those attendees unable to attend.
* if the change is agreed it is important to note that the change only relates to the labelling; the measurement concept will continue to be the Sexual Identity dimension of Sexual Orientation, and the data collected will not change- maintaining comparability.
* in addition to the recommended labelling update, footnote wording will be developed to appear with the principle to explain sexual orientation as a concept and what the recommended question is designed to capture. It will be recommended that a footnote should appear with any outputs produced based on the harmonised principle
* the Harmonisation Team will now begin to carry out necessary approval/governance processes. This will involve asking for approval from the National Statistics Harmonisation Group and the National Statistics Harmonisation Steering Group to amend the labelling of the current GSS Harmonised Principle of Sexual Identity to be replaced with ‘sexual orientation’. NSHG members will receive the recommendation template and will be given two weeks to respond.

**6.0 Data Collection Methodology – Gender Identity Update – Steve Smallwood and Pete Betts**

* + the 2021 Census Topic Consultation identified a need for information about the population whose gender is different from the sex they were assigned at birth. Steve explained that gender is;
  + A personal internal perception of oneself
  + And as such the gender category with which a person identifies may not match the sex they were assigned at birth
* in contrast, sex is biologically determined
* traditionally gender was viewed as a binary and is often conflated with sex (male, female)
  + ONS initiated a programme of stakeholder engagement and research to consider whether and how this need could be met, including through the 2021 Census, social surveys and/or administrative data.
  + an overview of the topic, the latest position, and the qualitative testing of various potential questions on sex, gender and trans status were presented
* if members have any issues regarding gender Identity, please get in touch by emailing [stakeholder.engagement@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stakeholder.engagement@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. **UKSA Code of Practice – National Statistician’s Guidance – Quality, Methods and Harmonisation - Penny Babb**

* the interactive online code was published on 22nd February on the statistics authority website (<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/>); there is also a booklet version
* some guidance and case studies have been added; members were asked to consider what other guidance could be added and to email [regulation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:regulation@statistics.gov.uk) with suggestions
* there is a guide to voluntarily apply the code (pdf format) for non-official statistics (for example local authorities and charities) to encourage producers of statistics to apply the three pillars of the Code (Trustworthiness, Quality and Value)
* members were asked to provide feedback to the Code by 22nd March

1. **Household Definitions Update - Emily Knipe**

* December 2017- As part of the IESS (Integrated European Social Statistics), which is due to be implemented 2020/21, a new household definition is being proposed.
* DSS (Meeting of European Directors of Social Statistics) paper from Oct 2017 documented the new proposed definition.
* this moves away from our current definition used in social surveys and the census.
* key changes affect: students and lodgers
* note: current admin data developments don’t/can’t align to the harmonised definition
* January 2018 - Meeting of key teams within ONS that this would affect. Actions included; consulting with devolved administrations, 2021 Census and to obtain a progress update from the IESS side
* paper from SILC working group indicated that Eurostat will impose a definition after agreeing the specifics
* March 2018 - Household definition raised at a recent DSS meeting. Roma Chappell fed back after meeting. Countries (inc UK) raised concerns about students and operational issues for online surveys. Also concerns about Harmonisation with the 2021 Census and across social surveys
* conclusion from meeting was that they decided to leave the definition as is. DSS minutes to record that it was not fully supported
* current understanding of position is that the UK (and DSS overall) have accepted the definitional change
* Social Surveys are liaising with customers to determine the appetite for aligning as part of DCTP- but this would happen after IESS is implemented (the date of which is still unconfirmed by Eurostat)
* note that the current DCTP strategy is to transform social survey data collection assuming non-compliance with Eurostat. Issues could include; continuity, interview length and respondent burden.
* If the UK needs to remain EU compliant then IESS surveys will need to adopt the new definition. However, if customers do not wish to change the definition then we may be able to obtain derogations
* currently investigating census position for signing off the definition for 2021
* recommended next step is to meet within ONS to discuss best way forward/action plan and then report back to NSHG.

1. **Health and Care Statistics - Helen Fox**

* The OSR and the Secretary of State Department of Health (DoH) recognised that improvements were needed for the coherence and accessibility of health and care statistics for users; health is devolved but in England it is also decentralised which has resulted in 10 main producers of health statistics in England in different formats and it is difficult for users to find information they need
* the English Health and Care Statistics Steering Group was formed which is represented by key producers of health and care statistics in England; Department of Health and Social Care, NHS Digital; NHS England; NHS improvement; ONS; Public Health England; Care Quality Commission and various others
* the group have produced a Health and Care Statistics Landscape, which brings all official statistics for health and care into one document, broken down by different topics and updated monthly. An overview of the work can be found [here](https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/health/), along with a [statistics landscape document](https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/health_and_care_landscape.pdf)
* there is a Monthly Knowledge Sharing Update which you can receive by email and aims to draw together recently published official statistics from across the health and care landscape. If you would like to sign-up to this Update please complete the short form [here](https://us16.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=ea294407c884fc03171d5c856&id=5ad7100c85) (you can also view back issues here too). I’d also encourage you to share more widely with colleagues and users who may find it useful.
* there are 19 [different theme groups](https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/health/english-health-statistics-steering-group/english-health-statistics-theme-groups/) which cover the health and care statistics environment (smoking/alcohol/drugs/obesity/mortality/adult social care/mental health/health inequalities), the purpose is to align definitions and methodology across the main producer bodies, reduce duplication of effort, to work more collaboratively to provide greater insight to users and to produce more rounded stories and finally to engage and incorporate user requirements into statistical products.
* last 6 months have harmonised definitions and methodologies and coordinating releases to be published on the same day for example smoking statistics from Public Health England, NHS Digital and ONS were published in June 2017 on the same day
* the English Health and Care Statistics Steering Group is joined up with GSS Harmonisation Team and GPT and intend to include them in the theme groups
* also involved in GSS Data Project who are looking to expand to health and care statistics in the future

**10.0 NSHG (18:1) 03, NSHG Topic Lead Updates – Topic Group Leads**

The Chair thanked the topic leads for their reports and asked if topic leads would like to bring something to attention of members;

**Benefits and Tax Credits – Claire Cameron**

Clare informed members the Questionnaire Consultation is taking place and this may result in minor changes to some questions.

Note: The Questionnaire Consultation is the process where stakeholders and the FRS consortium are asked to contribute their thoughts on what they consider to be necessary changes to the questionnaire each year, and then go back and forth with ONS and NatCen until the questionnaire code, interviewer material and show cards are all correct.

**Consumer Durables**

New topic lead is being sought.

**Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour – Fiona Aitchison**

A revised set of questions has been developed and the revision template is attached for members to review and agree via correspondence within two weeks.

**Demographic Information – Emily Knipe**

Please see report.

**Economic Activity – Debbie Curtis**

Please see report.

**Education – Julian Austin/Tony Clarke**

Please see report.

**EILR – Becki Aquilina (temp)**

Amanda Sharfman is the new topic lead for EILR; the Harmonisation Team will conduct a handover and Harmonisation induction for Amanda.

**Gender Identity – Michelle Monkman**

Please see report.

**Health, Disability and Carers – Steve Webster**

Please see report.

**Homelessness**

This is a new Harmonisation topic and the first meeting will be held soon.

**Housing and Tenure – Scott Edgar**

Please see report.

**Income – Mathew Minifie**

Please see report.

**Internet Access – Grant Blank**

Grant gave a brief overview of his experience as topic lead for Internet access

**Migration, Country of Birth and Citizenship – Hannah McConnell**

Hannah is a new topic lead; the Harmonisation Team will conduct a Harmonisation induction for Hannah soon.

**Personal Well-being – Silvia Manclossi**

A new minister for Loneliness has been announced and has been tasked with the measurement of loneliness. It is still early stages but the team are working with a technical group to decide the definition and measures to distinguish loneliness; there is a tight timescale and needs to be developed by Autumn 2018.

**Social Capital – Dani Evans**

Please see report.

**11.0 Any Other Business**

* None raised.

**12.0 Next Meetings**

Date of the next meetings is:

* 3rd July 2018, 1100 to 1330 hrs at ONS Drummond Gate

**ACTIONS 6 – Members are requested to let the Secretariat (harmonisation@ons.gov.uk) know if they have any items for inclusion on the agenda for the next NSHG meeting.**

**Annexes:**

1. List of Actions
2. Presentation Slides

**ANNEX A**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACTIONS FROM THE NSHG MEETING – 12th March 2018** | | | | |
| **No** | **Para** | **Action** | **Responsible** | **Status** |
| 1 | 3.0 | Circulate the NSH SG meeting minutes to NSHG members | Becki Aquilina | Complete |
| 2 | 3.0 | Organise Harmonisation Inductions for all new Topic Leads within the next two weeks | Harmonisation Team | On-going |
| 3 | 3.0 | Consider suggestions for communication ideas and platforms and inform the Harmonisation Team | NSHG Members |  |
| 4 | 3.0 | Contact Steve Dempsey to organise a business Harmonisation presentation/workshop at BEIS | Ian Sidney | Complete |
| 5 | 12.0 | Let the Secretariat (harmonisation@ons.gov.uk) know of any items for inclusion on the agenda for the next NSHG meeting | NSHG Members |  |

**ANNEX B**

****

1. **Communications Plan**

Document attached

1. **NSHG Census Update Report**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Purpose** | |
| The Census Update Report is used to provide the NSHG with a summary of Census question and questionnaire development work progress and future plans for individual topics. The NSHG uses the report to monitor the use of harmonised principles within the 2021 Census for England and Wales. The Census Lead also uses the report to advise the NSHG of any potential issues or areas where the NSHG could help. | |
| **Question and Questionnaire Development Lead** | Helena Rosiecka |
| **Reporting Period** | April to June 2018 |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the work at this time)* | |
| * Outstanding topic level decisions include: Sexual orientation, Gender Identity and exact tick-box specification of the Ethnic Group question. * The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has yet to finalise its recommendations for the 2021 Census. Once it has done so, the Government will bring forward a White Paper in late 2018 setting out the proposals for the 2021 Census. * Work is progressing on development of the questions to be used in the 2021 Census; this work is focused on optimising the questions for an online first Census. | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| * Census and Harmonisation teams worked closely on a joint meeting to progress plans for redeveloping the unpaid care and long-term limiting illness questions. It is hoped that because of this cooperative work the 2021 Census question on these topics will be more closely aligned with the Harmonised principles. * Work on gender identity, sexual orientation and marital status, and ethnic group is reported in the topic lead reports on gender identity, demography, and EILR respectively. | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| Census is currently undertaking a wide range of testing in a suite of questions, with 4 tests currently in the field and more due over the summer:   * Cognitive testing of question changes to optimise for online: sexual orientation, marital status, armed forces, labour market questions, unpaid care, long-term limiting illness, who lives here, central heating (and other housing questions), relationship matrix, ethnic group. * Small and large scale quantitative testing of impacts of question changes on the Census: religion, sexual orientation, gender identity.   The user need for information on the breakdown of highest level of qualification is being rereviewed as ongoing work aiming to shorten OR simplify the question has to date produced viable options that shorten OR simplify. | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
| * Most Harmonised Principles focus on interviewer administered modes, hence neither of the main Census modes (respondent led online or paper) are represented. | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
|  | |

1. **Health Update**

Slides to follow

1. **Homelessness Update**

Slides to follow

1. **Loneliness Update**

Slides attached

1. **NSHG Topic Group Updates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Benefits and Tax Credits** | |
| **Purpose** | |
| The Topic Group Report is used to provide the NSHG with a summary of harmonisation work progress and future plans for individual topics. The NSHG uses the report to monitor progress of work covering the review, development and/or revision of harmonised principles. The Topic Lead also uses the report to advise the NSHG of any potential issues or areas where the NSHG could help. | |
| **Guidance** | |
| * The reporting periods used to monitor progress represent the four month period prior to a specific NSHG meeting, i.e. November to February for the March meeting   Status is reported via the following: **Completed** (in the period), **Planned** (scheduled but not started or completed), **Underway** (as planned) or **Incomplete** (behind schedule)   * Please ensure the template is completed and returned to Mark Herniman (mark.herniman@ons.gov.uk) three weeks prior to the related NSHG meeting | |
| **Topic Lead** | Thom Sims |
| **Topic Group Members (inc Gov Dept from)** | Alice Jefferd (ONS); Alissa Goodman (IoE); Bob Watson (ONS); Charlotte Turner (CLG contractor); Chris Cousins (DWP); David Feeman (ONS); Debra Leaker (ONS); Donncha Burke (DWP); Giles Horsfield (ONS); Hugh Mallinson (CLG); Jane Carr (DWP); Jenny Collins (CLG); Joanna Littlechild (DWP); Jonathan Knight (ONS); Laura Keyse (ONS); Lucy Chandler (ONS); Mike Bielby (HMRC); Noah Uhrig (Uni. Of Essex); Rachel Councell (DWP); Riaz Ali (DWP); Richard Tonkin (ONS); Roger Morgan (DWP); Sarah Levy (ONS); Simon Clay (DWP); Stephanie Yow (DWP); Steve Dunstan (ONS); Suzanne Cooper (CLG); Tracy Lane (ONS); Valerie Christian (DWP) |
| **Reporting Period** | March - June 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | Family Resources Survey (FRS) |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | |
| The annual QCon process, for considering changes (additional questions, removal of questions and changes to ordering / words) to the FRS questionnaire, for the 2019/20 survey year is about to commence | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| Changes resulting from the 2018/19 QCon process: (to remove Widow’s Pensions; to remove the separate category for Widowed Mothers; the addition of Bereavement Support Allowance) were agreed by NSHG members prior to the meeting held in March 2018 | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
|  | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
| Devolution and Universal Credit roll-out both represent risk for the Benefit and Tax Credit module.  Devolution; FRS team engage with representatives from the devolved governments as part of the annual QCon. Surveys Branch also maintains contact with the DWP’s dedicated Devolution Team.  Universal Credit; FRS team engage with Universal Credit analysts within DWP as part of annual QCon | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
| None | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Crime and anti-social behaviour** | |
| **Topic Lead** | Fiona Aitchison |
| **Topic Group Members (inc Gov Dept from)** | Daisie Hutchinson ONS  Charlie Wroth Smith ONS  Alex Nolan ONS  Stuart Bennett NISRA  Claire Davey WG  Darren Peaston SG  John Flatley HO  Kevin Smith HO  Neil Grant SG  Melanie Riley DEFRA  Rosanna Currenti HO  Joe Traynor ONS |
| **Reporting Period** | March 2018 to July 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | |
| After sending questions to NSHG, feedback was received that stakeholders had not been consulted of this work, therefore a topic group has been set up to ensure all stakeholders are consulted with. | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| * In response to NSHG feedback, a topic group has been set up which includes the devolved administrations * 1st topic group meeting has taken place – actions from this is to look at the differences in devolved policy surrounding key themes in crime statistics to assess feasibility of creating a UK harmonised set of questions for crime | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| * Continue with feasibility work * Look at administrative data sources and assess whether these can be harmonised * Continue devolved policy work * Hold 2nd topic group meeting | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
| * The harmonised principle for crime has received some concern in the past as to whether there is a user need for crime questions. | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
| N/A | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Demographic Information** | |
|  | |
| **Topic Lead** | Paula Guy |
| **Topic Group Members** | Nicola Haines, Vital Statistics Output Branch, Office for National Statistics  Davie Hay, Department of Health  Richard Elliott, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  Paula Guy, Population Statistics Division, Office for National Statistics (Topic Lead)  Karen Hurrell, Equality and Human Rights Commission  Laura Wilson, Social Survey Division, Office for National Statistics  Martin Parry, Welsh Government  Angus Hawkins, DCLG  Esther Roughsedge NRS |
| **Reporting Period** | April – June 2018 |
| **Surveys Harmonised Questions Used on** |  |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the work at this time)* | |
|  | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| **Same-sex marriage (marital status)**  Continuing to work closely with Census, Population Statistics Division (PSD) and social survey colleagues on any new/adapted marital status question. Research into the marital status question for 2021 census is ongoing. This includes feedback on question design and testing ordering of response options. Recommendations to be made later in the year.  I continue to keep an eye on the private members bill, which is now at the committee stage, to introduce opposite-sex civil partnerships which could have further implications on question development. It is anticipated that the timescales for a full public consultation on the future operation of civil partnerships will be 2020 at the earliest.  **Sexual Identity/Orientation**  The GSS Harmonised Principle of Sexual Identity has been replaced with ‘sexual orientation’ and is now live on the GSS website. Work to disseminate this change to stakeholders is in hand.  The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has yet to finalise its recommendations for the 2021 Census. Once it has done so, the Government will bring forward a White Paper in late 2018 setting out the proposals for the 2021 Census.  **Household definition**  Initial meeting held in April 2018 within ONS to discuss the impact and implications of changing the household definition in line with the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) proposal.  The most recent Eurostat Labour Market Statistics working group (LAMAS) meeting indicated that IESS will be implemented in 2021. We are still understanding the volume of changes for the LFS overall and will put together a testing plan for the different components over the next few months, however to measure the effect of a household definition change we would need a large-scale test. We are planning on consulting the interviewers for feedback on the adherence to the current definition and a feel for the scale of impact that it may have in the short term. LFS stakeholders have commented that there are no main concerns for outputs for either method, but continuity is of high importance. Other surveys are also consulting their stakeholders. Due to the timing of the regulation and the question around compliance following Brexit, we will discuss details of conflicts between business as usual and IESS with the Brexit team later in the year.  The current assumption is that the census household definition will remain as it was for 2011 and is not affected by these proposed changes.  Another household definitions meeting is scheduled within ONS for 25th June where stakeholder views will be discussed further.  **Other**  The harmonised output principle of ‘Gender’ has been labelled ‘Sex’ to align with the inputs. I will be reviewing the soft checks surrounding relationship clarification to update these too.  I have been working with the LFS EQ team, PSD and Census, particularly surrounding the demographic questions and their redevelopment on the LFS- this encourages strong links between Census, demographic analysis and social surveys ensuring that the demographic harmonised principles are being assessed and they are as up to date as they can be at this point in time.  I continue to monitor the work that Census is doing which may impact upon the demographic harmonised principles e.g. Household relationship grid, sex etc. | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| I will continue to monitor the work Census is doing on the marital status question with the aim to produce a new Harmonised Principle in the future. | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential problems along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
|  | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
|  | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Economic Activity Status** | | | |
| **Topic Lead** | | Debbie Curtis | |
| **Topic Group Members (incl. Gov Dept. from)** | | TBC | |
| **Reporting Period** | | March 18-June 18 | |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | | Labour Force Survey | |
|  | |  | |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | | | |
| ONS are coordinating transformation, Eurostat and ILO efforts to bring together proposed changes to employment status definitions and methods of collection.  Users are being informed via the Labour Force Survey steering group and consulted via Data Collection Transformation Programme meetings with stakeholders on research into question approaches. | | | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | | | |
| Further clarification of Eurostat requirements for the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) regulation to be implemented in January 2021. Discussions on UK appetite to harmonise with new ILO definition and EU changes are continuing alongside ONS DCTP work to develop an optimized questionnaire set. The harmonised principles will be revised with stakeholders when the IESS, DCTP and ILO requirements are more clearly defined. | | | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | | | |
| New ILO definition to be confirmed in October at ICLS meeting. Topic Group members to be defined so work can progress. We will continue to develop employment questions in line with Eurostat legislation and work with Census/DCTP to produce employment questions that align with current and future ILO definitions. | | | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | | | |
| The future of employment questions depends in part on our alignment with Eurostat and the need to comply with IESS regulations. We are inputting into Eurostat consultations on this topic but the final decisions for IESS requirements will not be published until some time in 2019, and our compliance depends on the UK’s compliance needs. | | | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Educational Attainment** | | |
| **Topic Lead** | | | Tony Clarke (DfE); Julian Austin (DfE); |
| **Topic Group Members (incl. Gov Dept. from)** | | | Bhaveshree Hirani (DfE) Matthew Bollington (DfE); Rachel Lloyd (Welsh Gov), ), Alicia Heptinstall (DfE), Mick Wilson (Scottish Gov), Laura Smyth (NISRA) |
| **Reporting Period** | | | April-June 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | | |  |
|  | | |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | | | |
| Underway | | | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | | | |
| We continue to work with the Census Education topic group, who are undertaking research and testing for qualification questions to be included in the 2021 Census. We are hoping that their work may provide the basis for an update to the current harmonised question, which has been in place for many years but which consultation has confirmed is of questionable value to most users. The Topic Group have discussed the reports from initial cognitive testing of different approaches and will continue with further testing based on these results. | | | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | | | |
| Further work with the Census topic group, who will report on the results of the latest testing in a meeting in July. | | | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | | | |
|  | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion** | |
| **Topic Lead** | Amanda Sharfman |
| **Topic Group Members (incl. Gov Dept. from)** | Nissa Finney – University of Edinburgh  Ludi Simpson – University of Manchester  Karen Hurrell – EHRC  James Denman – DCLG  Michael Berry – DWP  Noah Uhrig – MoJ  Marcia Merchant – DfE  Richard Cameron – GLA  Gerry Firkins – NHS Digital  Nick Armitage – NHS Digital  Charlie Wroth-Smith – ONS Harmonisation  Becki Aquilina – ONS Harmonisation  Emma Small – Welsh Government  Sue Leake – Welsh Government  Emma Morgan – NISRA  Cecilia MacIntyre – NRS  Jay Gillam – NRS  Maria O’Beirne – DCLG  Stephen Richards – LGA  Josh Leedale – BEIS  Rebecca Williams – CTP Questionnaire and Question Design (secretariat) |
| **Reporting Period** | April – June 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** |  |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | |
| **Ethnicity**  The cross government Ethnicity Assurance Panel was held on 1 June. The next meeting will be 19 September. Development of the ethnic group question for the 2021 census continues to be the focus of work. ONS are considering four tick boxes: Jewish, Roma, Sikh, Somali. Stakeholder engagement is continuing and focus groups are being conducted to consider the public acceptability of adding the tick boxes and the clarity and data quality of the tick boxes. We are also looking into the acceptability of colour terminology.  The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has yet to finalise its recommendations for the 2021 Census. Once it has done so, the Government will bring forward a White Paper in late 2018 setting out the proposals for the 2021 Census. | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| * Working closely with Census including attending EILR Census topic groups and the GSS Ethnicity Assurance Panel * Developing links across the ONS to establish an overarching view of ethnic group work * Developing links with the Race Disparity Unit * ONS have published a report taking a first look at the outcome of an audit of UK inequalities data on the nine protected characteristics of the Equality Act (2010). A focus on ethnicity data is also included. | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| Continue to participate at Census Topic Group and Ethnic Group Assurance panel.    Topic lead to review and re-establish the topic group and continue to build links across ONS and the GSS. | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
|  | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
|  | |

**Gender Identity**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic Lead** | Melissa Randall |
| **Topic Group Members (incl. Gov Dept. from)** |  |
| **Reporting Period** | April to June 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | N/a |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | |
| ONS do not currently collect data on gender identity on any of our social surveys.  We have published a [Gender identity research and testing plan](https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/census/censustransformationprogramme/consultations/the2021censusinitialviewoncontentforenglandandwales/topicreport20genderidentityresearchplan.pdf) which sets out the work we will do to help us determine whether, and how best, to meet user needs for information on gender identity. This research and testing work will inform our position on this topic. | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| We are continuing to engage with stakeholders to understand what data on gender identity is required and for which populations.  * We have continued to undertake qualitative research and testing to further inform question development about how we can collect gender identity information in addition to sex. * We are continuing to liaise with and learn from other national statistics institutes regarding data collection of gender identity/sex information on their respective censuses and social surveys.  We are continuing to identify and explore alternative approaches to meeting user need, e.g. admin data.A Topic Lead for Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation has been appointed by ONS. Melissa Randall (melissa.randall@ons.gov.uk) will be responsible for ensuring topic expertise is shared within ONS, the GSS and internationally.See also Census Topic Group report | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| A further update on the gender identity work will be published later on in 2018.  * Topic lead to continue to build links across ONS and the GSS. | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
| No decision on inclusion or exclusion of a question on gender identity has yet been made.  However, if the decision was to be include in one or more countries, there is a risk that the highest quality question design will differ between countries.  This is because, although the countries have been working together throughout, testing has shown different understanding of the developing terminology across the UK countries.  Leading to some question forms being more successful in some countries than others. | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
| For further information and updates please see our [gender identity webpage](https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/measuringequality/genderidentity/genderidentityupdate). | |

**Homelessness**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic Lead** | Tom Treadwell |
| **Topic Group Members (inc Gov Dept from)** | Daisie Hutchinson ONS  Charlie Wroth-Smith ONS  Ruth Davies ONS  Nigel Henretty ONS  Trevor Roodt ONS  Kay Lethbridge ONS  Claire Milne ONS  Jon White MHCLG  Freek Spinnewijn FEANTSA  Ben Henshall CO  Grainne Bellenie NHS England  Samantha Dorney Smith Pathways  Saminah Shaikh Pathways  Claire Perkins PHE  Jez Stannard PHE  Kate Thurland PHE  Martin White PHE  Alisha Cooper PHE  Stuart Bennett NISRA  Hugh Kerr NISRA  James Sampson NISRA  Helen Smith MOJ  Sarah Morton MOJ  Graham MacKenzie MOJ  Luke Pickard DWP  Helen Lomax DWP  Joseph Jobling SG  Josie Knowles SG  Judith David WG  Nathalie Cortada NRS  Tilly Ajala Osinuga DfE |
| **Reporting Period** | March 2018 to July 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | There is not currently a harmonised principle for homelessness. |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | |
| Since the NSHG and NSH SG agreed stage A of the harmonisation process, work has begun to start developing this topic further. | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| * Daisie met with new topic lead * Liaised with cabinet office and ONS work to ensure all work streams are joined up * Charlie and Daisie met with stakeholders across government and created a homelessness topic group * 2nd topic group workshop has taken place looking at the differences in definitions across the UK and legislature across the devolved administrations * Feasibility of work is taking place * Harmonisation work has been included in Iain Bell’s workplan blog post published on ONS website * Met with pathways who are creating housing fields for the NHS | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| * Continue feasibility work * Write paper detailing feasibility * Work towards Nov 2018 time frame * Start discussing ways to develop a harmonised definition / set of questions | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
| * Admin data is the main source for homelessness information as not many surveys ask homelessness questions. It can therefore be quite challenging to harmonise based on admin data. * There is a legal definition of statutory homelessness which is not all encompassing of homelessness and misses out some homeless people and has been criticised for this. * Homelessness data is used for different purposes across the GSS so we should be mindful of this when creating a harmonised principle * Legislative differences across the devolved administrations * Feasibility of the work based on differences in definitions across the GSS | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |

New topic lead – Tom Treadwell, taken over from Ellen Reaich

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Housing and Tenure** | |
| **Topic Lead** | Chauncey Glass |
| **Topic Group Members (incl Gov Dept. from)** | Marcus Spray (MHCLG), Julia Bowman (MHCLG), Lu Han (MHCLG), Rachel Worledge (MHCLG), Daniel Shaw (MHCLG), Katie Allison (BEIS), Joe Jobling (Scottish Government), Gowan Watkins (Welsh Government) |
| **Reporting Period** | March 2018 – July 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | English Housing Survey, Scottish Household Survey, Continuous Recording of Lettings and Sales in Social Housing in England, Annual Population Survey, British Social Attitudes Survey, Community Life Survey, Continuous Household Survey, Crime Survey for England and Wales, Family Resources Survey, Food and You Survey, Health Survey for England, Living Costs and Food Survey, National Survey for Wales, Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, Scottish Health Survey |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | |
| * Cognitive testing of existing leasehold/freehold questions on the EHS has been conducted. | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| * New topic lead taken over from Scott Edgar * Cognitive testing has been completed and a report is being written up to be published in future. * Housing statistics in government group has been focussing on the private rented sector and a paper has been created which will be sent out in next reporting period. * Awaiting steering group recommendations on what is next to look at from the OSR report | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| * Continue with work on the cross-government housing group * Take away actions from working group (if/ when there are any) | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
|  | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
| New topic lead taken over from Scott Edgar – Chauncey Glass | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Internet Access** | |
|  | |
| **Topic Lead** | Grant Blank |
| **Topic Group Members (inc Gov Dept from)** | Daisie Hutchinson ONS  Becki Aquilina ONS  Charlie Wroth Smith ONS  Peter Dangerfield BSA  Chris Phillips FCS  Emma Dickinson ONS  Laura Keyse ONS  Stephanie Wall ONS Eurostat  Cecil Prescott ONS Eurostat  Louise Skilton ONS  Clare Watson ONS  Daisy Hamer ONS DCM  Stuart Bennett NISRA  Jordon Stewart ONS DCM  Andrea Boyle OFCOM  Jessica Rees OFCOM  Sean Mattson BEIS  Ian Brown DCMS  Darren Stillwell DfT  Emma McCallum SG  Gary McIntyre SG  Jonathon Ryder DCMS  Judith Peterka DCMS  Lisa Walters WG  Stephen Thomas WG |
| **Reporting Period** | March 2018 to July 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | The Harmonised Principle is out of date so surveys are using their own version for this topic. |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | |
| The internet access topic has been agreed by the NSHG and the steering group for the internet access harmonised principle to be developed. Daisie has been working with the internet access topic group to create a new harmonised principle. | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| * A set of questions have now been developed with the topic group to ensure they harmonise across all surveys * Individual stakeholder meetings have taken place to ensure all users are engaged with * Questions are receiving feedback to make slight changes to the wording and outputs to ensure they need user needs | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| * Meet with DCM to arrange testing of questions and understand their remit for doing this * Continue to develop harmonised principle * Topic group members to feedback on questions to ensure they are meeting user’s needs | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
| * We are going to create a high level and more detailed set of questions * As there are different needs for different surveys, we are currently in the process of discussing a core set of questions that could potentially be asked on every survey. * We are looking at a two-phased approach – phase two including cyber security, non-user questions, skills and confidence using the internet – this may include additional stakeholders | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
| Meetings will no longer be monthly, they will be scheduled when questions are ready for feedback. | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Loneliness** | |
| **Topic Lead** | Ian Sidney |
| **Topic Group Members (incl. Gov Dept. from)** | The lead officials on this work are Ellie Baggott (DCMS)/ Lauren Bowes (DCMS) and Dawn Snape (ONS) / Dani Evans (ONS). **Membership of the Loneliness Technical Working Group**  ● Kellie Payne (Campaign to End Loneliness)  ● David Marjoribanks (Relate)  ● Vindal Karania (Age UK)  ● Sophie Pryce (Age UK)  ● Susan Cooke (British Red Cross)  ● Christina Victor (Brunel University)  ● David McDaid (London School of Economics)  ● Pamela Qualter (University of Manchester)  ● Nancy Hey (What Works Wellbeing)  ● Olivia Christophersen / Rosanna White (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport)  ● Leila Tavakoli (Department for Health and Social Care)  ● Maria O'Beirne (Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government)  ● Andrew Steptoe (University College London)  ● Tamsin Shuker (Big Lottery Fund)  ● Laura Venning (Big Lottery Fund)  ● Julie Barnett (Bath University)  ● Julianne Holt-Lunstad (Brigham Young University)  ● Nicole K Valtorta (Newcastle University)  ● Gwyther Rees (York University) |
| **Reporting Period** | March – June 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | Questions are currently under development |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | |
| Questions are currently under development | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| A background document on the measurement of loneliness has been produced by ONS with guidance from the technical advisory group for DCMS. This document also detailing the work that is to be undertaken on the testing of loneliness questions  The preliminary recommendation for the measure for loneliness is to use:   * a single item measure, and * the UCLA 3 item scale | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| During the next period, cognitive testing of the potential loneliness questions will be carried out with children (aged 10-15) and young adults (aged 16-24). These questions will also be tested on the opinions survey during July 2018 and August 2018.  This question testing and qualitative research is planned to inform the following:   * the number of response categories for the single item question * any order effects associated with placement of the two measures * the wording for the children’s questions * the effect of different data collection modes (eg, online, telephone or face to face) * Experience of loneliness among children and young adults   Ethical approval is currently being sort within ONS and through The Children’s Society | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
| There are still gaps in the evidence and unresolved questions such as how many response categories should be used for the single item question, the order of the measures, the wording of questions for children’s surveys, and possible mode effects. It is hoped that the cognitive testing of the questions should provide evidance to answer these questions. | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
|  | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Health, Disability and Carers** | |
| **Topic Lead** | Steve Webster |
| **Topic Group Members (incl. Gov Dept. from)** | Victoria Wass Cardiff University  Nick Bacon University of London  Gyles Glover Public Health England  Kim Bradford-Smith DfID  Gracie Cooper ONS  Ben Baumberg-Geiger University of Kent  Sean Harper ONS |
| **Reporting Period** | March – June 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | Health Survey for England, Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among young people survey |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | |
| Theme group stared work on revising harmonised principle Long-lasting Health Conditions and Illnesses; Impairments and Disability | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| Little progress in the period due to other work pressures. Theme group lead changing at end of June – Jane Winter NHSD to take forward. | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| Proposed theme group meeting with ONS about how best to progress revising the disability principle – possibly summer 2018. | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
| Key risk continues to be limited resource to devote to this group in a climate of reducing funding and staffing reprioritisation in NHS Digital. | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
|  | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Income** | |
| **Topic Lead** | Matthew Minifie |
| **Topic Group Members (incl. Gov Dept. from)** | Matthew Elsby (HMT), Anne MacDonald (SG), John Shale (DWP), Joanna Wroe (ONS), Alan Jackson (WG), Jo Bulman (ONS), Laura Keyse (ONS), Jennifer Doak (NISRA), Jeremy Reuben (HMRC) |
| **Reporting Period** | March 2018 to June 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | No formally agreed harmonised questions on all income components |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | |
| The previously published harmonised principle for income has been removed from GSS harmonisation documentation as it was too simplistic and not fit for purpose. The group will now try to focus on working towards producing income outputs that are consistent with the internationally agreed standards outlined in the Canberra Group Handbook.  Significant progress has been made in harmonising income-related questions on two of ONS social surveys – the Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF) and the Survey on Living Conditions (SLC). Another ONS social survey, the Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS), has also adopted many of the harmonised income questions from the LCF and SLC. A lot of the new income questions on LCF, SLC and WAS bring the surveys closer in line to DWP’s Family Resources Survey (FRS), however it is important to note that differences still exist. DWP and ONS have been in close communication regarding questionnaire changes to the FRS and LCF-SLC and the differences that exist.  A lot of effort has gone into harmonising the editing and imputation of LCF and SLC data. Previously the data from these two surveys have been edited and imputed in very different ways. This is a very important piece of work as differences in editing and imputation strategies can have cause larger discrepancies than questionnaire collection differences and this is not always realised by external onlookers. LCF and SLC data will be edited and imputed as one dataset for the first time and in the future WAS income data will also be included. One benefit of this is that the statistical donor pool size will be much larger than in the past.  Work continues on the production of a new output processing system for ONS household income outputs Effects of Taxes and Benefits (ETB) and EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). This system will utilise the combined samples of the LCF and SLC and use a common household income derivation program.  Access to administrative data remains a frustrating issue. However, DWP and ONS are in communication regarding a secondee from ONS to work on benefits data held by DWP. Both organisations are discussing a joint approach to how to use administrative income data in the production of household income statistics.  All of the work described above is part of the ongoing ONS Household Financial Statistics Transformation Programme. This programme will address concerns voiced by the UK Statistics Authority’s Income Monitoring Review. The harmonisation across ONS social surveys will effectively produce a Household Financial Survey, the collected data from which are to be used to produce income outputs required for national purposes and under European legislation. The use of administrative data and the move to online data collection are also within the scope of the transformation programme. One potential use of administrative data is to replace the income questions currently asked by social surveys.  Note that income outputs are also produced by areas of ONS outside of social surveys, such as the Labour Market division. These other income outputs may be produced by access to limited administrative data and through business surveys such as the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and the Monthly Wages and Salaries Survey (MWSS). Such surveys are sent out to businesses and not households, therefore questions asked are likely to need to be different to those asked of household surveys. Discussions at high level meetings will hopefully ensure that the concepts measured by social and business surveys are the same and once ONS gets full access to administrative data that these data are used in a harmonised and coherent manner. | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| The near-complete harmonised LCF and SLC surveys were launched in April 2018. WAS has taken on a number of the LCF-SLC harmonised income questions from April 2018, but not all.  LCF and SLC data from January 2017 to March 2018 have been combined into a single dataset that is being statistically imputed. Complex mapping was required to combine LCF and SLC variables into common variables. Detailed testing of LCF and SLC at the variable level has been conducted for the purpose of understanding how to proceed with the imputation of the combined LCF-SLC dataset. The questionnaire differences in 2017 meant that some variables from the LCF and SLC require special treatment in the imputation process. The first file of imputed data has been returned. This is a big achievement.  Initial work on how the HFS will produce ETB given that the LCF is the only component survey that collects detailed expenditure. The favoured approach will be to ensure weights for ETB are calibrated to household disposable income generated from HDII/EU-SILC such that income estimates will not differ (improving coherency). Statistical matching will also be investigated.  Discussions have started with Eurostat about allowing the UK to submit income statistics on a financial year reporting period rather than calendar year, which would improve the coherency of income statistics by bringing EU-SILC in line with the national income statistics. | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| Continuation of testing of the LCF and SLC data to work out if there are notable differences between the two surveys and if so work will be needed to deduce how to resolve these differences.  Continuation of work on creating a common derivation program for ETB and EU-SILC.  Further investigations as to differences between ETB and DWP’s Households Below Average Income (HBAI) dataset.  Further exploration of administrative data and variables that can be used for the production of income statistics.  Continuation of work focussing on how to form ETB using HFS data (specialist weighting, statistical matching) | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
| Any changes to questions will create consistency issues and breaks in time series. This is particularly a problem for the Living Costs and Food Survey as it is widely used and has many stakeholders who do not like breaks in series. Breaks in time series are often seen as undesirable.  ONS is looking at incorporating administrative data sources into their plan for an integrated household finance survey. This does have an impact on any potential question changes as these should be consistent with the administrative data sources so as to minimise the effects of the expected future transition to using administrative data instead of responses to survey questions.  The EU referendum result does create some uncertainty as to how exactly to proceed with elements of the integrated household financial survey. Some aspects of income collection at present satisfy European requirements and whether these will still be required in the long term is not currently known.  There are different owners of the surveys that collect income statistics. The different owners may have differing requirements of the income data and so this adds an extra level of difficulty for ensuring complete harmonisation between all the surveys. Questions required for non-compulsory social surveys are likely to need different wording to those questions in compulsory surveys sent out to businesses.  To achieve harmonisation requires more than just question harmonisation. Editing, imputation and weighting have very signification impacts on income statistics. It is therefore necessary to investigate the harmonisation of editing, imputation and weighting of income data. | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
|  | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Migration, Country of Birth & Citizenship** | |
| **Topic Lead** | Hannah McConnell |
| **Topic Group Members (incl. Gov Dept. from)** | Migration Reporting Working Group (MRWG):   * Hannah McConnell (ONS) * Hannah Teare (ONS) * Ann Blake (ONS) * Nic White (ONS) * Nicky Rogers (ONS) * Giles Horsfield (ONS, IPS) * Yanitsa Petkova (ONS, LMD) * Bex Newell (Home Office) * David Matz (Home Office) * Jack Cooper (Home Office) * Martin Parry (Welsh Government) * Denise Patrick (NRS) * Yolanda Ruizrodriguez (DWP) * Ali Spahui (DWP) * Richard Elliott (NISRA) * Helen Delima (BEIS) * Khalida Choudhury (DoE) * Vishal Abhol (HMRC) * Max (Massimiliano) Verri (BEIS) |
| **Reporting Period** | April to June 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | International Passenger Survey, Annual Population Survey |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | |
| Confirmation of membership of the topic group required and work plan to be developed. | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
|  | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| Refresh and confirm membership of topic group – discuss at the MRWG.  Review published definitions for Migration, Country of Birth and Citizenship.  Consider areas for future work plan considering migration statistics transformation programme and GSS data project. | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
| None identified | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
| N/A | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Personal Well-being** | |
| **Topic Lead** | Silvia Manclossi, Head of Quality of Life team, ONS |
| **Topic Group Members** | David Tabor and Lauren Stockley, ONS Team working on Personal Well-being |
| **Reporting Period** | March to June 2018 |
| **Surveys Harmonised Questions Used on** | The ONS4 (Life Satisfaction, Happiness, Feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile, Anxiety) are used in 20+ surveys; the full list can be found here: [Surveys using the 4 Office for National Statistics personal well-being questions](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/methodologies/surveysusingthe4officefornationalstatisticspersonalwellbeingquestions) |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the work at this time)* | |
| * On 17th May 2018, we published our latest headline estimates of [Personal well-being in the UK: January to December 2017.](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/bulletins/measuringnationalwellbeing/januarytodecember2017) This release was based on the four harmonised personal well-being questions and provided updated estimates for the UK with analysis by country. To increase the value of our work for decision makers and in keeping with our aspiration to “[leave no one behind](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/leaving-no-one-behind-our-promise/leaving-no-one-behind-our-promise)”, work was also undertaken with the New Economics Foundation (NEF) and the What Works Centre for Well-being to identify a possible headline indicator to measure well-being inequalities. Alongside this release, a [summary of the work](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/methodologies/measuringwellbeinginequality) was published, as well as the [full report](http://neweconomics.org/measuring-wellbeing-inequality) being available on the NEF website. The second half of this bulletin discussed the work done as part of the recommendation to test the possibility of widening the lowest thresholds of personal well-being to better capture inequalities and the next steps in relation to our inequalities work. * Since the last reporting period, we have engaged with stakeholders already using or planning to use our personal well-being questions and provided them with guidance on the harmonised principles and support in relation to how our personal well-being could be included in their surveys. | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| * We produced our latest quarterly publication on personal well-being estimates/ headline results and published our initial work aimed to measure well-being inequalities. * We have started reviewing the content and format of our publications to better meet user needs based on the feedback and queries we have had through our conversations with stakeholders and our Quality of Life inbox. | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| * As we have seen inequalities emerging within our data, we will explore these further looking at factors that may contribute to some groups of society having lower personal well-being. * We have been analysing the user feedback gathered through an online survey about the content and format of our publications (please see: [ONS Personal Well-being outputs: Your feedback](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LRDG9HT)) which was launched at the end of February 2018. We are planning to report on the main feedback received and our plans to better meet user needs alongside our next personal well-being publication in September. * We are also planning to engage more with internal and external stakeholders currently using our harmonised questions to have a clearer picture of what kind of analysis they are carrying out with them and update our methodology page: [Surveys using the 4 Office for National Statistics personal well-being questions](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/methodologies/surveysusingthe4officefornationalstatisticspersonalwellbeingquestions), as we are aware that the ONS4 have been added to other surveys since this release in January 2017. | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential problems along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
| N/a | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
| N/a | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Social Capital** | |
| **Topic Lead** | Georgina Martin |
| **Topic Group Members (incl. Gov Dept. from)** |  |
| **Reporting Period** | February 2018- July 2018 |
| **Surveys the Harmonised Questions are used on** | n/a |
|  |  |
| **Summary Status** *(An overview of the status of the topic work at this time)* | |
| Harmonisation of social capital questions are currently on hold. | |
| **Progress made during this reporting period** | |
| Harmonisation of social capital questions has been on hold. | |
| **Work planned for the next reporting period** | |
| Current priorities favour the National Loneliness measure recommendation and the inequalities audit for the Inequalities centre of Expertise. Therefore, harmonisation of social capital questions has been on hold.  We hope that by the end of the year, priority can be given to this topic. In which case we will complete the analysis and continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure there is agreement on the updated harmonised set of questions on social capital. | |
| **Key Issues and Risks** *(Summary of actual or potential issues along with risks, potential impacts and sensitivities linked to individual needs of UK nations)* | |
| - Priorities currently lie with loneliness and the inequalities audit  - Ensuring we get engagement from all parties necessary  - Limited policy interest in the topic of Social Capital | |
| **Other Information** *(Any other relevant details)* | |
|  | |